

proposed regulations, from carbon regulations to proposed lower ozone standards, will only make this number increase if they move forward.

These shutdowns mean higher electricity prices. Sadly, EPA bureaucrats don't understand or don't care about how the abundance of coal in Kentucky permits the State to benefit from relatively low energy rates which make our businesses more competitive and make it easier to attract jobs. As we saw during last winter's cold snap, our country needs coal and ready access to it. Coal allows us to generate affordable power when there is an uptick in electricity use combined with spikes in natural gas prices. But as the EPA uses the administrative fiat to terminate existing and future coal-fired powerplants, there will be less coal when we need it the most—when we need a source of affordable power. Families throughout the country who rely on coal for electricity could find themselves in a tough spot in the near future with the current administration in office.

Those are the facts about this administration's war on coal, but let me provide a more vivid picture about Kentucky coal itself.

Kentuckians have been mining coal for generations. Kentucky coal helped power the Industrial Revolution that transformed our economy into the largest and most prosperous in the world. Kentucky coal has even contributed to the struggle to defend our Nation in times of war. Kentucky's coal miners have done so much for our Nation. The Senate should not be turning its back on them now.

Jimmy Rose of Pineville, KY, is well known to many as the voice of coal country. Jimmy is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served in Iraq, a former coal miner, and a finalist from the television show "America's Got Talent." He is famous for his song "Coal Keeps the Lights On." I think Jimmy put it best when he said, "Coal keeps the bills paid, the clothes on the backs, and shoes on the feet."

I am not going to stand idly by while this administration and this EPA try to wipe out the lifeblood of my home State. The Senate was created to be a deliberative body, one that would debate and legislate on the great issues of the day. Instead, the Senate, as it is currently run, does all it can to avoid important subjects such as the war on coal.

It doesn't have to be that way. The Senate can still reclaim its mantle as a body of vigorous debate and legislative achievement, and the Kentucky coal miner can still do an honest day's hard work for good pay, because after this administration is out of office, the coal will still be in the ground. After this administration leaves office, the coal will still be in the ground.

So I am going to fight for that Kentucky coal miner to hold on to our State's birthright. This war on coal is not over, not by a long shot.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. McCONNELL. On another matter, I just explained why the war on coal has been so damaging to the people of my State. It is clear to me at least that we need to work together toward sensible, all-of-the-above energy policy. The good news is that the Republican-run House is set to present us with another perfect opportunity to work across the aisle and do just that this very week. The House plans to pass and send over a bipartisan legislative package that would create jobs while helping to make energy more affordable and more abundant.

Among other things, this energy package would finally approve the Keystone Pipeline. This is a project that is safe, shovel-ready, and could create tens of thousands of jobs right away. It is just unacceptable that the administration has now spent 6 years—6 years—dragging its feet on the Keystone Pipeline. I commend my colleague from North Dakota Senator HOEVEN for bringing attention to that fact and for his strong vocal leadership on this issue. While some on the other side of the aisle claim to be supportive of Keystone jobs, they have failed to stand up to the majority leader who has blocked this effort time and time again on behalf of the Obama administration. We need to approve the House legislative package and finally get this pipeline built and these Keystone jobs created.

But the House's energy package would do a lot more than just that. It would also modernize the permitting process, allow for more energy exploration, increase exports of American energy, and it would help us fight back against the Obama administration's war on Kentucky coal jobs in several different ways.

One bill would prevent the administration from developing more job-killing coal regulations and another from Representative WHITFIELD would push back on the coal regulations that have already been issued.

This package is common sense. I applaud our colleagues in the House for their efforts on this issue. It presents a perfect opportunity for our Democratic friends, if they are willing to support it, to prove they are serious about real solutions for middle-class families—that they have a real agenda beyond just designed-to-fail bills.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL N. FANNIN

Mr. McCONNELL. This morning I wish to share with my colleagues the story of a brave Kentucky airman who loved his country so much he defended it at the cost of his life.

U.S. Air Force SSgt Daniel N. Fannin, of Morehead, KY, was killed in the crash of his reconnaissance plane near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan on April 27, 2013. It was just a few weeks after his 30th birthday.

For his service in uniform, Staff Sergeant Fannin received several medals, awards, and declarations, including the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Bronze Star.

Daniel's mother Sharri Jones recalls this of her son:

Daniel flew on this Earth as an airman. His faith has earned him angel wings now. He died serving others, serving his country, and serving God. This mother is blessed.

Daniel grew up in Morehead and attended Rowan County Senior High School, from which he graduated in 2001. He enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduation and at the time of his death was a 12-year veteran.

Daniel's mother Sharri remembers:

I frequently told Daniel he was my hero. Benjamin Disraeli said, "The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

These words epitomize my son. His name will be remembered, and his works are indeed great examples. He was then, and will forever be, my hero.

Daniel's mother Sharri continues:

I used to tell Daniel that it didn't matter what he did as a career in life, but I expected him to be the best that he could be, no matter if he was a ditch digger or a CEO. He did me proud by doing just that. He was the best man that he could possibly be.

As Daniel grew up, he had to learn how to do chores such as laundry, cleaning, and cooking. Sharri's mother said:

Like all kids do, he complained constantly, and sometimes it was a battle getting him to do those things. I was fortunate enough to get to attend his Air Force basic training graduation ceremony in San Antonio. During liberty, he took me aside and said: "Mom, I want to thank you." I said: "What for, son?" He said: "For making me do all of those things you made me do, like laundry. It sure made things a lot easier for me here. Some of these guys didn't even know how to turn a washer on!"

Daniel was an avid reader from his early childhood. "The hardest form of punishment for him was not to allow him to read," says his mother Sharri. Daniel's wife Sonya Fannin certainly agreed. "He could read a 400-page book in a day or less," she says.

Daniel met Sonya while stationed in Oklahoma City. Sonya says:

One of my favorite stories to tell was that on our first date he went to the flower shop to pick a bouquet. He spent hours in the shop, he said, before finally picking two dozen white roses. When he presented them at the door, Danny didn't know that those were my favorite flowers, but that was the moment I knew.

Daniel loved to go camping, hiking, biking, and fishing. He loved the outdoors. On his and Sonya's 5-year anniversary trip to Maui, Danny's favorite activity was a submarine ride 170 feet below sea level. He liked to say he had been to the depths of the ocean and flown to the highest heights after that trip.